

Meeting Minutes

Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant

Advisory Council

Friday, February 25, 2011

Council members present:

Melissa Stone, Chair; Shirley Gifford; Kate Burkhart; Delisa Culpepper; L. Diane Casto; Donn Bennice; Cindy Cashen; Shirley Pittz; June Sobocinski; Kathy Allely; Natasha Pineda.

1. Overview of Alaska's approved SPF SIG Strategic Plan—*Moving Prevention Upstream: A Plan to Implement a Comprehensive Approach to Substance Abuse Prevention in Alaska.*

- a. Diane provided an overview of the document and the process for approval. Allen Ward, our Federal Project Officer reviewed the draft copy of the document, providing valuable input that helped make the approval process very easy and timely. Once the Plan was officially submitted, a request was made to make three small changes (including having all six selected community grantees address both priority consumption patterns, not just one); these were made and final approval was received in early February.

Diane thanked everyone for reviewing the draft version of the plan, editing and making recommendations for clarification. She tried to incorporate as much feedback as possible into the final version of the Plan.

b. Comments/concerns:

- i. Shirley: Excellent job, I am really pleased with it. I know how tedious it can be to manage such a large report and making the changes. Good job to you and your staff.
- ii. Melissa: the report does a good job of drilling down of how the information was used to get to the final determinates of the plan for the state. In the DVSA workgroup she discussed what some of those data points were and how we got to where we were. In terms of better collaboration and looking at social conditions in a more comprehensive way, it would be helpful to bring the SPF SIG information to the DVSA Workgroup. [Melissa made a presentation about the SPF SIG project to the Workgroup of the Governor's Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Initiative].

The conversation about cost and consequences reminds us that the problems are not all the same from state to state so this exercise helps to point out how the data can inform us about the needs of Alaska.

2. Next steps:

- a. Development of the Request For Proposals and beginning the solicitation process to identify our six community/regional grantees to conduct a SPF planning process and strategies to address youth alcohol use and adult heavy and binge drinking;
- b. For more details about what the RFP will include review pages 45-53 in the Strategic Plan; these pages outline the parameters of what will be requested and expected of the local level grantees.
- c. Proposal Evaluation Committee (we are looking for volunteers, so if you are available, please let us know). Melissa said it would be nice to have participants on the PEC that cross over in suicide prevention and domestic violence and sexual assault.

3. Prevention Workforce Development Subcommittee of the Advisory Council:

Diane and Natasha discussed plans for the first meeting of the Prevention Workforce Development Committee. Natasha Pineda will be the lead staff person working with this committee, along with Sherrie Wilson, our CSAP Prevention Fellow. The primary focus for Alaska's capacity building, as outlined in the Strategic Plan, is the expansion and enhancement of the state's prevention workforce. A number of Advisory Council members have volunteered to serve on this committee and will be receiving an e-mail to establish a recurring meeting day and time. Items to be discussed and worked on include identifying prevention core competencies, utilizing work currently being done by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP); framing the needs specific to Alaska—what type of prevention workforce do we want/need; reviewing Prevention Specialist Certification through the IC&RC or other certification programs; integrating prevention-specific training into our state system of higher education; and other ideas for improving Alaska's prevention workforce.

4. Integrating the Alaska Committee to Prevent Underage Drinking into the SPF SIG Advisory Council?

Currently, through the Division of Behavioral Health, we have the Alaska Committee to Prevent Underage Drinking (AKCPUD). This group was developed as part of a national effort to bring more specific attention to the issue of youth alcohol use. The AKCPUD was developed in 2006 and began work to develop a state plan to prevent underage drinking, released in 2009. [http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/prevention/docs/2009_underagedrinkplan.pdf]. Since that time the committee has continued to meet to discuss how to increase community strategies to change the rates of young people drinking alcohol in Alaska and the devastating outcomes of underage drinking. With the selection of youth alcohol use as one of the primary consumption patterns impacting Alaska, and a focus for the SPF SIG community grants, it makes sense to integrate the two committees to make sure the activities, actions and outcomes are coordinated and comprehensive in nature. The AKCPUD will be meeting in the next couple of weeks and will discuss this idea. Two current AC members are also members of the AKCPUD including Shirley Gifford, ABC Board and Cindy Cashen, Alaska Highway Safety Office. Once a final decision is made, the AKCPUD will officially become a sub-committee of the SPF SIG Advisory Council and will report on progress to the full Advisory Council.

Another activity of the ACPUD has been the development of a CSAP-funded video highlighting strategies Alaska is using to reduce and prevent underage drinking and its consequences. The

17-minute video has just been completed and will be posted on the DBH Prevention website [<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/prevention/>] within the next week and will eventually be posted on the national CSAP site where videos from all 50-states are located [www.stopunderagedrinking.org]. In addition, DVD copies of the video will be made and provided to our grantees, Advisory Council members and other interested parties. The video highlights activities in Anchorage, Nome, Barrow and Kodiak. Thanks to Natasha Pineda, lead staff, Sarana Schell, DHSS PIT, Shari Paul, DJJ and all members of the AKCPUD that assisted with this project.

5. Updates from our Epidemiology (Epi) Workgroup as well as our Evidence Based Interventions (EBI) Workgroup:

Diane reported that the Epi Workgroup is updating the current State Epi Profile on Substance Use Data. Once updated, the plan is to develop an electronic version of the document that will be posted on the SPF SIG website at <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/prevention/programs/spfsig/default.htm>.

Once the Epi Profile is updated and posted, the next project of the Epi Workgroup is to work on the identified data gaps, such as data providing clear relationships between substance use and child abuse/neglect, domestic violence and sexual assault. Suicide data related to substance use is also limited, as well as toxicology reports and alcohol and other drug related arrests.

Other issues the Epi Workgroup will focus on is the development of regional Epi Profiles, using the six DOL regions—Northern, Interior, Southwest, Anchorage/Mat-Su, Gulf Coast, and Southeast. The Epi Workgroup, in partnership with the SPF SIG Evaluation Team, will help identify ways to increase the capacity of local communities to collect, analyze and report on local data.

Diane indicated that the Division of Public Health is exploring the development/implementation of an Indicator-Based Information System (IBIS), similar to one in use in Utah. Kathy Allely confirmed that DPH is actively working to develop an IBIS system for Alaska's health data resources that can provide statistical numerical data as well as contextual information on the health status of Alaskan's and the state of Alaska's health care system. Diane and Deborah Hull-Jilly have discussed the impact this type of system could have on the SPF SIG Epidemiology resources—making this information much more accessible and easy to use. DBH, through the SPF SIG project will explore how we can financially assist with the initial stages of this project. To review the Utah program, giving you a better idea of how the IBIS system works go to: <http://ibis.health.utah.gov/>.

The Evidence Based Interventions Workgroup is working to find a balance between research-based strategies and lesser “evidence-based” interventions that may better meet the needs of local communities, especially those using traditional Alaska Native interventions. The field of evidence-based strategies for social and health services is undergoing serious review and there appears to be a belief that funders may have gone too far in requiring interventions/strategies that meet certain evidence standards, reducing the ability of local communities to use innovation and community-specific programming that may better meet the community needs. Within the parameters of the SPF SIG project, the use of “evidence-based” interventions is required, but how we define EB for our state is the work of the EBI Workgroup. There is a

strong belief that we need to have a clear understanding of what will constitute “evidence” for our community programs, while also allowing for a “service to science” type model for those strategies that don’t begin with clear evidence. Can we develop a plan for approving certain interventions, with a plan for collecting data and determining effectiveness throughout the process? The EBI Workgroup is meeting regularly to develop a guidance document for use by the community grantees once they have completed Steps 1-2 and begin planning in Step 3. Melissa appreciates the guidance document concept; it came up with the DVSA initiative in a discussion of how to utilize, recognize and evaluate the importance of traditional Alaska Native interventions in a world focusing only on evidence-based strategies. Would be interested in what types of programs the SPF SIG cohorts 1-3 used; what can we learn relative to what interventions they used and how successful they were. Diane or Devon will contact Alyssa O’Hair at the West RET to see if we can coordinate an opportunity for the EBI Workgroup to hear from representatives of Cohort’s 1-3 regarding their success in using evidence-based strategies and how traditional American Indian/Alaska Native interventions were integrated into their programming.

6. Updates on the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative, as well as the Behavioral Health Comprehensive Prevention Funding:

Melissa Stone, a member of the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Workgroup provided a presentation at last week’s DV/SA Workgroup meeting to outline the SPF SIG and its next steps. One issue the two groups can work together on is to specify what DV/SA and substance use data is available, what we need and how we can fill the identified data gaps. Both groups recognize the need to define of the intersection of DVSA and substance use.

Diane recommends that Dr. Rosay, UAA Researcher who is conducting the Alaska Victimization Survey, should meet with the Epi workgroup to discuss these data gaps. We need to strengthen the data showing the relationship between interpersonal violence and alcohol/drug use providing insight into how or if the reduction of substance use can reduce the rate and/or severity of domestic violence and sexual assault. Melissa believes this issues needs to be in writing, because it is not rising to the surface in a meaningful way. Melissa would like to have the Epi Workgroup write a letter to the Advisory Council via Melissa, including the data gaps the Epi WG has identified, and ask that a request be made to have the Data subcommittee of the DV & SA Workgroup meet with the Epi Workgroup, to begin working on solutions.

The meeting ended at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting of the SPF SIG Advisory Council is scheduled for Friday, March 25 at 9:30 a.m. The same call-in phone number will be used for the March call: 1-800-315-6338, code 8407#.